



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY



WINTER EDITION JANUARY 2012

The society had a lot of difficulty filling the post of Chairman at the A.G.M. Our President and a former Chairman, John Baron, took on the post in order to prevent the winding up of the Society. At the first meeting of the new committee they appointed me as the new Chairman. I hope that you are all happy with this change.

As Chairman I hope that the Society continues to welcome all levels of stamp collectors and philatelists, (I don't mind being called either though maybe some of you may prefer to be known as one or the other).

Input from members is very important and if you think that we are not doing what you would like then please let the committee know. In particular we would like to know what you would like from the meetings and the society in general. We need to build on the membership to enable the Society to flourish and the work that Ian and Juliet Keel are doing with potential new young collectors is so important. Equally, I am sure that there are older collectors that we need to reach and encourage to join and perhaps rekindle an interest that they had put aside for whatever reason. Your ideas as to how we can get these people re-interested would be most welcome. Flyers have been produced to distribute to the Kennet Heath and other areas after Christmas and I hope that we shall be able to organise a working party of members in order to distribute them.

The November meeting was to have been 'Phlog-It' but, due to a lack of interest, a Bourse was held instead. We had a good number of members selling material but very few buyers.

I hope that as your new Chairman you will find me approachable and I look forward to your input. I shall do my best in the role and hope to make a good fist of it as the previous Chairmen.

Barney Bardsley

Year 44

Issue 115

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The December Competition Prize-winners

For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact

Martin Farr, Editor

Tel 01635 866437

or

Graeme Stewart, Secretary

Tel 01635 866942

Winter Photo Gallery



The ten-card set



Tony`s Belgian cards

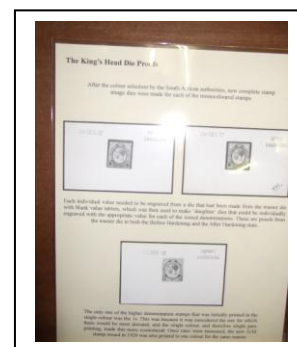
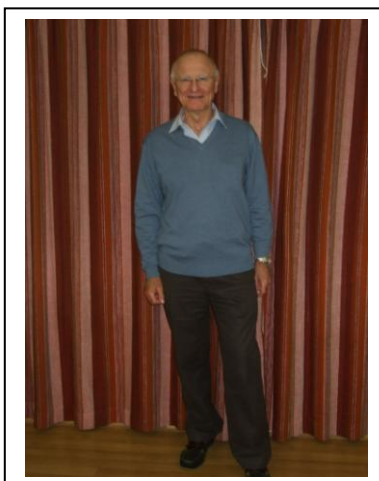


Lace making

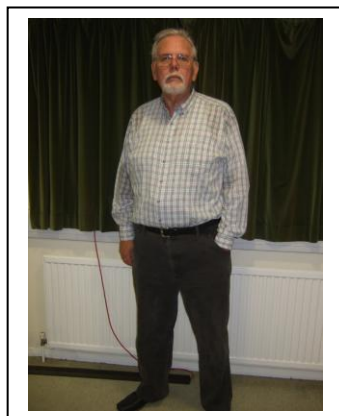


The Postcard People

Brian Trotter



Some die proofs



Tony Jordan



Wagons Oh no, oh!



Wagons Hooo!



Jean Foster presents Graeme with the new trophy Baydon School - Stamps for Fun - with Ian and Juliet



PAST EVENTS

OCTOBER

The Monday meeting held on the 3rd was all about Postcards. There were 17 members present many of whom brought some items with them.

To start off Tony Hillier showed a lovely collection of postcards from his Belgian grandparents which included WW1, his grandmothers pictures, Belgian royalty and a wonderful set of 10 cards, issued at 2 per year, that made up a picture of a young woman (see page 2).

Tony Jordan then showed a selection that included Spanish roses, 2 real leather postcards, embossed and pictorial cards of British scenes.

Martin Farr showed two cards from Bletchley Park and a Postcard that completed his sheets of Gustav Hamel who flew the first Air Mail flight from Hendon to Windsor Castle in 1911.

Mike Gurr brought 4 early colour Tuck cards of old fire engines, some 1916 cards of Leatherhead fire brigade and some really old cards of Windsor Castle.

After the tea interval Graeme Stewart showed a selection of Newbury postcards. Some quite comical postcards advocating the town, some old company and advertising cards and scenes of the town.

Dave Tanner then presented some picture cards made from slices of stamps and lots of `Lace` cards all about lace making, bobbins, cushions, and associated artefacts. It was a very interesting display.

Jerry Wilson took over and showed several Mabel Lucy Atwell cards from 1927 – 1950`s. Lovely cards. Ian Keel brought some of Juliet`s cards (he doesn`t collect them!) of post offices from around the world from their visits and holidays – quite a collection too.

Finally John Taylor showed us some postcards of famous pictures, Slapton Sands, by the windmill, and a 3D Japanese card.

We had a great and interesting afternoon with a wide range of subject material.

Congratulations are in order to Louise Funnell who was awarded a silver medal at Hampex for her 16-sheet display on Pierre Gandon.

On Wednesday 19th, John Tingey travelled to the Surrey Postcard Club at Guildford and gave his talk and display on Reginald Bray. There were over 40 members present with some attending from the stamp society and they were a most appreciative audience. John said that he had a good time but a pity about the traffic problems on the way back.

On Thursday 20th we were entertained by Brian Trotter as guest speaker for the evening. Brian is very well known in philatelic circles being both a national and international competition winner. The subject for the evening was `The early issues of South Africa and their production techniques`.

The talk and displays were on the first issues of South Africa - `The Kings Head`. An early design competition had taken place in 1911 but no designs were selected for issue. In 1913 De La Rue proposed three designs of two colours each (a – f) with design e being finally selected for the 1½d issues. Brian then talked about the evolution of die proofs for issues, with both their style and multiple colours, and showed many fine examples of 7 plates of issues with shades and perforations all changing and also several pages showing the progression of plate cracks getting worse. Then to finish off part 1 he then showed examples of the 2½d, 3d, 4d and 6d issues together with their plate dies and final proofs for the eventual hi-values.

In the second half Brian`s display continued with overseas and parcel post issues – there were lots of hi-values issued but they apparently had minimal usage. Then he finished off with the new issues of 1920 with plates of values and their die proofs and finally coil stamps issue examples. All in all an extremely comprehensive collection of material and a great depth of subject knowledge. A most interesting and informative evening.

NOVEMBER

The Monday meeting was quite an occasion. Tony Jordan – a regular afternooner - gave a wonderful presentation on `Wagons Ho!` (more about that later) and anything to do with wagons and horses.

Tony put up several sheets illustrating early mail delivery methods and then spoke about John Palmer who, in 1738, was the mail coach manager at Bath organising letters and deliveries, the transportation of

people and the avoidance highwaymen. When confronted with changes in the transportation methods he actually said "Wagons! Oh No, Oh!" and not "Wagons Ho!" as we have come to believe. He actually wanted mail coaches and not mail wagons and the expression has come to signify the Cowboy Culture.

There followed a lovely display of chariots, couriers, horsemen, covers and some engravings by Durer all accompanied by Tony's wry sense of humour - "All the coachmen and passengers were drunk most of the time". Then we were shown horse-riders and pictures of highwaymen on stamps and cigarette cards and their stories including nasty Dick Turpin who did not ride Black Bess to Leeds because a Swift Nick actually did.

This was followed by Stagecoaches and "stand and deliver" situations and the story of how when prisoners were being transported to Tyburn the entourage frequently stopped for liquid refreshments at regular intervals but, when on the road again the public could not give the prisoner a drink because he was "On the wagon".

To finish off Tony showed lovely material of Palmers Royal Mail coaches which were kings of the road between London - Bath - Bristol, followed by mail coach issues and silks and the designs of Czeslaw Slavic who designed the "Mailcoaches" issue.

All in all a quite an educating and entertaining afternoon. We must have more of the same and soon.

Thursday 17th

Something different for this Thursday meeting. As "Phlog-It" was not taking place a "Bring and Buy" Bourse evening was held. Members were invited to come and take a table to sell their wares both philatelic and ephemera.

Eleven tables of items were set up with buyers and sellers totalling 23 members. Lots of circulation around the tables with haggling and not too hard sells. Some did well while others did not. I do get the impression that society members seem to have got most of what they actually want. The difficulty is in knowing what they do want as there seemed to be more ephemera items sold than philatelic. (Shades of the discussions that took place earlier in the year).

There seemed to be a lot of wheeling and not a lot of dealing, but lively social discussions in the tea-bar.

Reg Rhodes would like to thank all his friends who came to see him while he was in hospital and all those who have offered help and assistance since he has been home recovering.

DECEMBER

The Monday meeting was a social affair. There were only 14 members present but we had 5 apologies. There was an interesting chat re competition entry classes and requirements and an updated rules sheet was sent out before the competition night. We then had a general knowledge quiz set by Pauline Badger and the winner of the box of chocolates was Graeme with 10/20 with Tony Hillier coming second with 8/20. Graeme then set quiz 2 which was won by Martin with 16/20 with Tony Hillier again coming second with 14/20.

Ann provided the hot minced pies and teas and coffees and a vote of thanks must go out to Ann and also helpers Juliet and Pauline for serving the refreshments for all the meetings. A big THANK YOU.

In part 2 we held a short "new acquisitions" session.

Martin showed 3 sheets of Chinese "Filial Piety" that he recently designed.

Graeme showed some old Thatcham covers with the J79 cancellation.

Ian showed several sheets of "Smiler" issues of London, Battle of Britain, Xmas 2011 and 300 years of the Postmark and, to finish off, Tony Jordan showed some lovely cards and postcards that he got for a bargain off of Ebay about the American Revolution. Nice cards, very pictorial.

Another good Monday afternoon.

The Christmas Competition and Quiz night was held on Thursday 15th and on a cold evening there were 25 members present. The competition entries were displayed and members were invited to judge on the Frank Record trophy, the Novices cup and the One-Sheet entries. Meanwhile, John Tingey was judging the Advanced level entries as per the Federation guidelines.

An appetising buffet was provided by Mike Ward and Ann Martin ably assisted by other members. Wine and soft drinks were dispensed freely and many returned for second helpings! All the while the Christmas quiz questions, set by Barney the Chairman, were being solved by all in table teams. Then, with all the competition results now ready the winners were announced as follows :-

The Jubilee Cup - entries of 1 x 9-sheet and 1 x 16 sheet.	The winner was Barney Bardsley
The Reg Rhodes Thematic Shield - entries of 4 x 16 sheets	The winner was Martin Farr
The Keith Foster Memorial Trophy - just one 9-sheet entry	The winner was Graeme Stewart
The new trophy was presented by Jean Foster	
The Frank Record Trophy – just one 9-sheet entry	The winner was Jerry Wilson
The Novices Cup - There were no entries.	
The Single Sheet Salver - 10 entries for this competition	The winner was Barney Bardsley
The Society Trophy – for the highest advanced level marks - was awarded to Barney Bardsley for his 16-sheet Jubilee Cup entry.	

A bottle of wine was presented to John Tingey for judging the competitions.
Finally the quiz answers were given and there were two table- team winners – team Julia and team Juliet.
A box of chocolates was dispensed to all.

All in all a good Christmas social evening and the committee wishes all our members a
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

The Ark of the Government

In the year 2009 the Lord came unto Noah who was now living in Gloucester and said “Once again the earth has become wicked and over-populated and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans.”

He gave Noah a CAD design saying “ You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights”. Six months later the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard – but no Ark. “Noah” He roared “I am about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?”

“Forgive me Lord” begged Noah “but things have changed. I needed Building Regulations Approval. I’ve been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is a development of the site even though it is a temporary structure. We had to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision. Then the Department of Transport demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving the Ark to the coast. I told them that the sea would be coming to us but they would hear nothing of it.

Getting the wood was another problem. All the decent trees have Preservation Orders on them and we live in a site of Special Scientific Interest in order to protect the spotted owl. I tried to convince them that I needed the wood to save the owls – but to no avail.

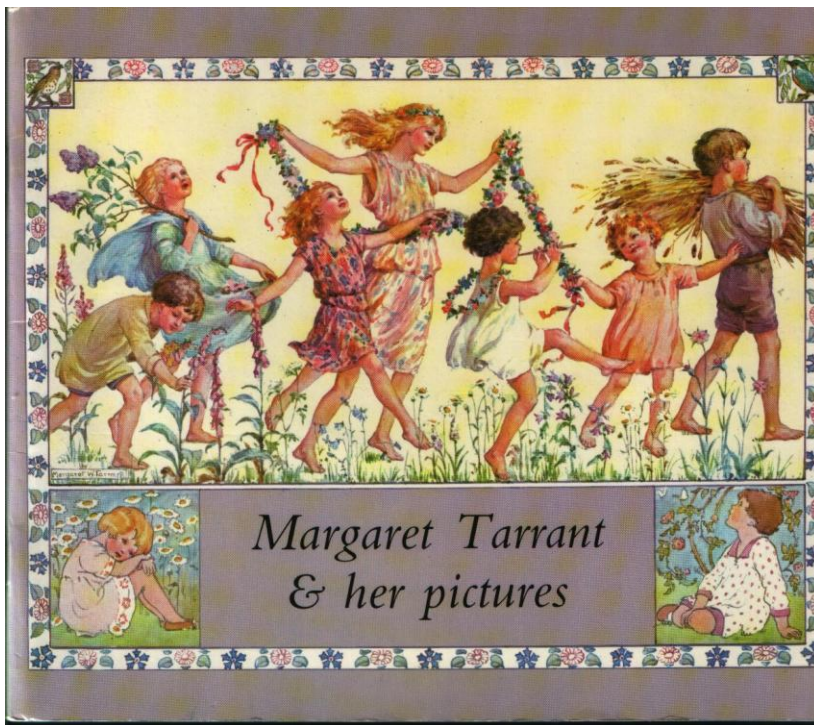
When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will, the accommodation was too restrictive and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in such a confined space. Then the Environmental Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I could not build the Ark until they had conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood. Then there is the Health and Safety Executive – something about fire extinguishers and I said we won’t need them as there is going to be so much rain. They then spoke about the clearance of tons of animal waste and went on about everything not meeting requirements including Mrs Noah’s suitcase weighing more than 23Kg.

To make matters worse, Customs and Excise seized all my assets claiming that I am trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species. So forgive me Lord, but it will take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark”.

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked “You mean you are not going to destroy the World?”

“No” said the Lord. “The government has beaten me to it”.

The Postcard Page



Many years ago now Sue Rhodes fell in love with the picture postcards of Margaret Tarrant and Reg travelled far and wide to acquire them for her. Sue has quite a collection and here are just a few examples of her work.

Margaret Tarrant was born in 1888, the only daughter of the artist Percy Tarrant. She studied at the Clapham School of Art and Heatherly's and started her career illustrating editions of such famous books as Charles Kingsley's *The Water Babies* and Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. She produced illustrations for children's stories and rhymes throughout her life and it is for these that perhaps she is most remembered. Her paintings of flowers and the Surrey countryside show her technique at its most pure. The children, animals and fairies are well loved by all and later in life she painted many religious themes published by the Medici Society.

In the 40's she illustrated for Collins and Warne including *The Nursery Rhyme Book* in 1944 and *Johann the Woodcutter* in 1949. She died in 1959 leaving her pictures to her friends and the rest of her estate to 12 charities.



Many thanks to Sue and Reg for the lovely postcards and information.



Stamps for Fun

Ian and Juliet Keel are doing a great job visiting schools to further the aims of stamp collecting. They recently attended the Baydon Primary School Christmas Fair to get the children involved with stamps. Some enjoyed soaking off stamps (always popular), while others made Christmas Tree decorations using discarded stamps, bells, baubles and stars. All was covered in glue and selected bright stamps, some in careful straight lines, others in a wonderful sticky chaos.

They run a stamp group at the After School `Wagtails` Club at Baydon School once a month and this free workshop gave the children a fun taster. Several of the children expressed an interest in coming to do stamps at Wagtails. Ian and Juliet look forward to getting them working with stamps, tweezers hinges and albums as well as taking part in games and fun activities.

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

13 th October	Around the UK pt 1 A – L
8 th November	Christmas issue
11 th January	FAB. The genius of Gerry Anderson
24 th January	Birds of Britain pt 2
1 st February	Classic Locomotives of UK
24 th February	Musicals
8 th March	Magical Realms
22 nd March	World Wildlife Fund

Royal Mail Issues – a critique

I recently came across this article in the Daily Mail letters page and thought that it was quite interesting in the light of recent discussions.

Stamp out this rip-off

I've been a stamp collector for many years but now I feel like calling it a day because I believe it's no longer a genuine hobby. It has become a `cash cow` for postal authorities on mainland UK, the Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Gone are the days when the occasional commemorative issue of perhaps three or four stamps in a set was issued. Now there is a new issue almost every month, often with at least six stamps in a set.

UK Post Office issues have cost in the region of £50 or more a year and the others are not far behind and quite often, the postal authorities issue a miniature sheet of stamps identical to the single stamps, which then means a further cost to the collector.

In 1948 when the previous Olympic Games were held in London the stamp issues consisted of just four stamps – 2½d, 3d, 6d and 1/- at a total cost of 10p in today's currency. So far, for the 2012 Games, we have had in 2009, 2010 and 2011 issues of ten different first-class stamps, a total of 30 stamps. Furthermore, second-class stamps are no longer issued in the commemorative series.

How ridiculous can it get? No wonder interest from the younger generation has fallen. They have found better things to do that buy coloured pieces of paper at extortionate price.

THE BACK PAGE

“Club Stamps” corner

TDPS Club Stamps are now being looked after by Dave Tanner who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall and at Westbex.

Accessories. Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

Future Programme and Events

Monday 9 th January	`Creepie Crawlies`
Thursday 19 th January	New Acquisitions
Monday 6 th February	`60 Glorious Years`
Thursday 16 th February	Workshop
Saturday 18 th February	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall
22 nd – 25 th February	Spring Stampex, Islington, London
Tuesday 28 th February	Visit to North Berks Society
Monday 5 th March	Anything Goes (collectables other than stamps)
Thursday 15 th March	Guest speaker to be confirmed
Saturday 24 th March	WESTBEX at the Kennet School, Thatcham from 10am to 4pm. April`s Auction lots on view
Monday 2 nd April	`The Olympics`
Saturday 14 th April	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall
Thursday 19 th April	Society Auction at the Memorial Hall
19 th – 21 st April	Philatex, Horticultural Hall, SW1

Officers of the Club

President	John Baron	01235 820120
Chairman	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
Vice Chair	Ian Keel	01488 681500
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307

Committee Members

Ann Martin	01488 682728
Tony Hillier	01635 864848
Reg Rhodes	01635 865721
Colin Bartholomew	01635 865457
Nathan Gregory	

Archivist	Julia Wilson	Westbex	Will Roberts	Publicity	Martin Farr
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